



PATENT
37310-000188/US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bradley P. BARBER et al.

Conf: 8550

Sérial No.: 09/781,820

Group: 2825

Filed: February 12, 2001

Examiner: R. Rocchegiani

For: METHOD OF FABRICATING A MEMBRANE WITH
IMPROVED MECHANICAL INTEGRITY

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
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August 25, 2003 (Monday)

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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated July 24, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are in the present application. In the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement, and requested that Applicants elect one of the two following groups for prosecution in connection with the present application. The two groups are as follows:

Group I, including claims 5-10, allegedly drawn to a method for CMP planarization; or

Group II, including claims 11-13, allegedly drawn to a method of forming a step-shaped electrode structure; or